

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 NSCE-00 /068 W  
-----121844Z 020609 /50  
R 121718Z JAN 77  
FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2749  
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2967

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EEC, EP  
SUBJECT: ROY JENKINS' FIRST SPEECH TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: ON JANUARY 11 NEW EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS INTRODUCED THE NEW COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SESSION IN LUXEMBOURG AND IN HIS INITIAL SPEECH CALLED FOR NEW, MORE VISIBLE EFFORTS TOWARD CREATING WEST EUROPEAN UNITY AND CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT. PROMISING THAT NEW COMMISSION WILL PERFORM AS A SENSITIVE POLITICAL INSTITUTION ATTUNED TO HUMAN NEEDS, RATHER THAN AS TECHNOCRATS DEALING WITH MERE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS, JENKINS SAID THAT THE ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION PORTFOLIOS ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK (EC BRUSSELS 143) WAS DESIGNED TO ENABLE COMMISSION TO CONCENTRATE BETTER ON THE MAJOR ISSUES COMMUNITY WILL FACE IN PERIOD JUST AHEAD: (A) COMMUNITY ENLARGEMENT; (B) WIDESPREAD UNEMPLOYMENT IN COMMUNITY COUNTRIES; (C) COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS TO CORRECT REGIONAL AND OTHER ECONOMIC IMBALANCES; (D) NEED FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN THE INTERNAL COMMUNITY MARKET; AND (E) PREPARATION FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. NOTING PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ABOUT HIS READINESS TO

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WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY, JENKINS SAID THE US AND OTHERS WILL TAKE THE COMMUNITY SERIOUSLY ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT THE COMMUNITY TAKES ITSELF SERIOUSLY AND FUNCTIONS AS A COHESIVE, COHERENT ENTITY. SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED BY PARLIAMENT, WHOSE SPOKESMEN WELCOMED IT AS A "POLITICAL SPEECH BY A POLITICAL ANIMAL." END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AS EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT, ROY JENKINS PROMISED AN APPRECIATIVE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT THAT WHILE NOT DENYING HIS BRITISH HERITAGE, HE WILL FUNCTION AS A "EUROPEAN" RATHER THAN "BRITISH" PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION. HE DREW APPLAUSE WHEN HE SAID THE COMMISSION "SHOULD BE A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A TECHNOCRATIC BODY, CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE PUBLIC IMPACT OF ITS PROPOSALS, BUT COMBINING THEM WITH PRACTICALITY, EFFICIENCY WITH HUMANITY." HE AVERRED THAT THE COMMISSION'S REORGANIZATION, WHICH BRINGS EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS UNDER ONE COMMISSIONER, IS A STEP TOWARD GIVING THE COMMUNITY A MORE "HUMAN FACE," SINCE IT RATIONALIZES THE EFFORT TO CONSIDER ALL ASPECTS OF PROBLEMS AFFECTING DIS-ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS IN MEMBER STATES. TO PROLONGED APPLAUSE FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE HOUSE, HE PROMISED THAT THE NEW COMMISSION WILL ALSO GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO CONSUMER'S INTERESTS THAN HERETOFORE.

3. IN PROMISING TO WORK CLOSELY WITH THE PARLIAMENT, JENKINS OBSERVED THAT THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT "ARE ON THE SAME SIDE" AND THAT HE ATTRIBUTED "HIGHEST IMPORTANCE" TO THE PROSPECT OF DIRECT ELECTIONS. "FOR THE TARGET DATE (1978) TO BE MISSED," HE WARNED, "WOULD BE A MAJOR SETBACK... THE RESPONSIBILITY ON ANY COUNTRY WHICH IMPEDED THIS DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE HEAVY AND DAMAGING." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. DIRECT ELECTION WILL NOT IN ITSELF GIVE GREATER LEGAL POWERS, BUT IT WILL GIVE PARLIAMENT "GREATER MORAL AUTHORITY." HE SUGGESTED COMMISSION'S BEST CONTRIBUTION TOWARD THIS "BENEFICENT TRANSITION" WOULD BE TO BEGIN NOW TO TREAT THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT WITH THE NEW SERIOUSNESS IT WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO ACCORD A DIRECTLY ELECTED BODY: "I INTEND FROM HERE FORWARD TO INJECT INTO OUR CONSIDERATION OF ANY PROPOSAL WE PUT FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL THE SYSTEMATIC AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER IT IS ONE FOR WHICH WE CAN REASONABLY EXPECT THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT." (COMMENT IN CORRIDOR COMMENTS, MPS AND PARLIAMENTARY CIVIL SERVANTS THOUGHT JENKINS SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING GREATER, MORE PURPOSEFUL CONSULTATION BETWEEN THE COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES DURING THE PROCESS OF FORMULATING COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO THE EC COUNCIL, BUT CAUTIONED THAT THE PROOF WILL COME

LATER.)

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-----122015Z 020684 /50

R 121718Z JAN 77

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5. JENKINS' LONGEST, AND RHETORICALLY MOST MOVING PASSAGES, CONCERNED THE NECESSITY FOR MOVING FORWARD WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNITY, A THEME HE HAS TREATED IN OTHER RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS (EC BRUSSELS 271). JENKINS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAS BEEN A RECENT, UNHEALTHY TENDENCY FOR MEMBER STATES TO GO THEIR OWN WAY AND THAT MANY EUROPEANS CONSIDER THE UNCERTAIN PRESENT AN UNPROMISING TIME FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TOWARD COMMUNITY-BUILDING. HE THOUGHT, NONETHELESS, THAT THE "OMENS (ARE NOT) NECESSARILY UNPROFITIOUS," SINCE "OUT OF THIS MORASS (OF APPREHENSION) THEY (THE MEMBER STATES) MAY BE MORE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO COMMUNITY PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE, PROVIDED THEY ARE COGENTLY, FIRMLY, AND SELECTIVELY PRESENTED." HE URGED THAT THE PRESENT GENERATION OF EUROPEAN LEADERS HONOR THOSE PREDECESSORS WHO HAD LABORED SO EFFECTIVELY IN THE CAUSE OF EUROPEAN UNITY BY GETTING ON WITH THE JOB: "....I BELIEVE THAT OUR DUTY AT THE PRESENT JUNCTURE IS NOT TO INVOKE HISTORY, BUT TO START ONCE AGAIN TO MAKE IT: NOT TO PRAISE FAMOUS MEN BY SITTING IDLY ON THE SCAFFODLING OF THE HALF-FINISHED BUILDING AND DRINKING TOASTS TO THOSE WHO LAID THE FOUNDATIONS SO WELL. THE BEST

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TRIBUTE WE CAN PAY TO THEM IS NOT TO PRAISE THEM BUT TO ENUMERATE THEM, TO GET ON WITH OUR JOB AND ADD AT LEAST ANOTHER STOREY TO THE BUILDING. WE CANNOT LIVE INDEFINITELY ON THE TRIUMPHS OF A GENERATION AGO. IF WE DO THIS, WE WILL ENSURE THAT THE IDEA OF EUROPE MEANS LITTLE TO THE HEARTS OF THE YOUNG AND IS ONLY AN EVOCATIVE EVENING MEMORY IN THE MINDS OF THE MIDDLE-AGED AND THE OLD...WE MUST GRAFT THE IDEA OF EUROPE INTO THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE."

6. IN THE CONTEXT OF HIS APPEAL FOR GREATER COMMUNITY COHESION AND PURPOSEFULNESS, JENKINS SAID THE FOLLOWING ON US-EC RELATIONS: "AND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC WE HAVE A NEW PREIDENT WHO HAS MADE IT CLEAR IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS THAT HE IS ANXIOUS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE AS A COMMUNITY. BUT WHAT HIS WILL MEAN IN PRACTICE AND HOW EFFECTIVELY WE CAN HAVE AN EQUAL RELATIONSHIP ACCROSS THE ATLANTIC WILL DEPEND ESSENTIALLY ON HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE OURSELVES AS A COMMUNITY. OUR ATTITUDE IS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE REACTIONS OF OTHERS."

7. JENKINS CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH WITH A STRONG APPEAL TO "END THE GROWING DIVERGENCE" IN THE MEMBER STATES' ECONOMIES--WHICH HE SAID CANNOT BE DONE "BY ASKING THE STRONG TO BECOME LESS STRONG AND LESS EFFECTIVELY MANAGED." THE WEAKER MEMBERS MUST BE HELPED, FOR "IF THEY FALL BY THE WAYSIDE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE UNITY ON WHICH THE STRONG HAVE BUILT THEIR PROSPERITY WOULD BE DESTROYED." THESE DIVERGENCES SHOULD NOT CAUSE DESPAIR, JENKINS POINTED OUT, FOR "WHAT GREATER UNITY IN THE WORLD, FROM THE ROMAN EMPIRE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WOULD EVER HAVE BEEN ERECTED ID DIVERGENCIES WERE REGARDED AS A RECIPE FOR DESPAIR? THE TEST IS HOW WE FACE THEM."

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8. SPOKESMEN FROM ALL POLICIAL GROUPS, INCLUDING COMMUNISTS, TOOK THE FLOOR TO WELCOME THE NEW COMMISSION AND JENKINS' SPEECH. SPEAKERS PAID TRIBUTE TO JENKINS' BACKGROUND AS ACTIVE, SUCCESSFUL POLITICIAN, AND TO HIS CREDENTIALS AS LONG TIME, CONVINCED EUROPEANIST. ALL WELCOMED HIS PROMISE THAT THE COMMISSION WILL BE SENSITIVE TO THE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS AND TO THIS DECLARATION REGARDING THE NEED FOR CLOSER COMMISSION-PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION. WHILE THERE WAS SOME MILD CARPING

AMONG MPS ABOUT THE LACK OF SPECIFICS IN JENKINS' SPEECH  
(WHICH JENKINS PROMISED TO DELIVER TO THE FEBRUARY  
PARLIAMENT SESSION), ALL GRANTED JENKINS' SINCERITY  
OF PURPOSE AND THOUGHT THAT ON THE WHOLE HE AND THE  
NEW COMMISSION HAD MADE A SOLID INITIAL IMPRESSION  
ON PARLIAMENT.

9. TEXT OF JENKINS' SPEECH BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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